

TWO-LETTER INTERJECTIONS

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It is a curious fact that a substantial percentage of two-letter words are interjections; of the 227 words in the "Dictionary of Two-Letter Words" issued by the Biliteral Society and reviewed in the August 1984 *Word Ways*, 52 can be so classified. The tables below, grouping interjections according to feelings, commands and statements, show the great variety of messages that can be sent.

Feelings

abhorrence FO
anguish AI
annoyance OI OY
assent EY
aversion BU YA
commiseration AW
complaint AH
contemplation of reality OM
contempt AH BU PO YA
defiance (malicious) YA
delight AH HO
derision HO YA
despair AI
disapprobation BU
disapproval AW FY
disbelief AW
disgust AW FO YA
dislike AH
dismay OI OY
displeasure AH
dissatisfaction (mild) HM
dissent (mild) HM
distress AY
doubt EH HA UM
emotion (sudden) OH
entreaty AW
grief AI HA OI OY

hesitation ER HA UM
horror (mock) FY
impatience FY
incredulity AW
indecision HA
indignation HO
joy AH HA IO
lack of words HA
pain AH OH OI OY
pain (sudden) OW
pique HA
pity AH
portest AW
puzzlement HA
regret AH AY
relief AH
remonstrance (mild) AW
satisfaction AH
shame (mock) FY
shaming FY
sorrow AY
surprise AH AY EH HA HO LA MY OH
surprise (intense, sudden) OW
threats AH
triumph HA IO
wonder HA

Commands

attention! HY LO OI
behold! LO
haul in rope (sailors)! YO
go away (animal)! ST
go (beasts, esp. hogs)! OI

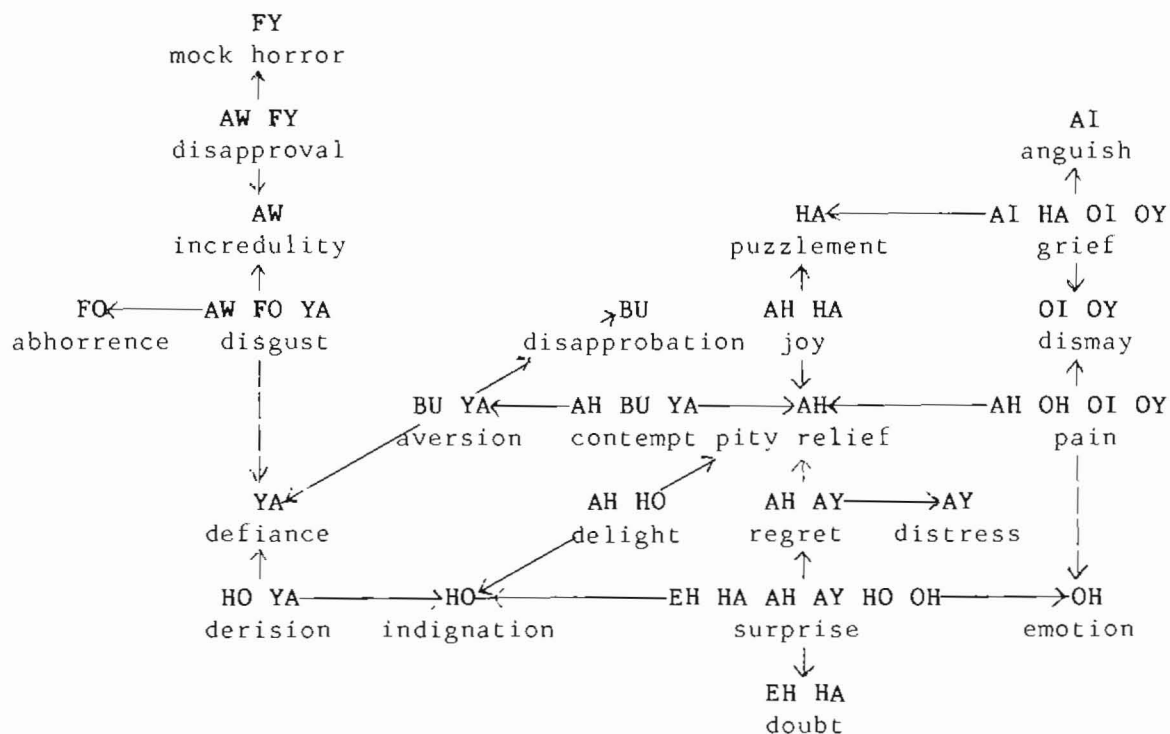
become active (esp. hogs)! OI
hurry! FY
look! see! LO
be quiet! SO SH ST
stand still! SO

Statements

anxious question W1
demand attention H1 HO WE
call aloft O1
invite confirmation EH
sailors' hauling cry HO
emphasis LA WE
to frighten BO
"God" (minced) OD
good-bye BY
greeting H1
hailing O1
inarticulateness UH UM
incitement YO#
laughter (derisive) HE*HO*

laughter (mincing) HE*
oh OO OU
ow OU
pause of embarrassment HM
preface to apology WI
so NU
so what NU
to startle BO
thanks TA
warning YO#
well? NU
why? WA
yes IA

* usually repeated # may be repeated



Editor's Note: Ignoring a few rarely-occurring interjections for feelings, I have arranged the remainder in an interrelated network on the preceding page. In it, a given feeling can be regarded as the sum of two or more component feelings, identified by arrows radiating from it. For example, pain (at the right) is denoted by AH, OH, OI and OY; its components are pity denoted by AH, emotion denoted by OH, and despair denoted by OI and OY. Note that AH (dislike, complaint, displeasure, pity, relief, satisfaction, threats) is a component of five different feelings, and surprise consists of four components.

LOGOLOGICAL SPACE

This is the English translation of the title of a new paperback on Dutch wordplay by Rudy Kousbroek, *De Logologische Ruimte* (Meulenhoff, 1984), available in the Netherlands for 29.5 guilders (about eight dollars). This 183-page book contains 33 chapters on a wide variety of logological subjects, from the activities of Oulipo, a French group of writers devoted to literary wordplay (*Word Ways*, May 1976) to Lee Sallows' remarkable pangram machine (*Word Ways*, November 1984). The first chapter, a literal translation of a Grimm fairy tale from Dutch into English, is hilariously reminiscent of the Portuguese-English phrasebook described in Kickshaws in this issue. One chapter is composed entirely of words like *deeghouw* (a tool used in paper manufacture) which are spelled in alphabetical order; another contains only words of one syllable (including quotations from *Whales for the Welsh*); a third inverts the traditional "A is for Apple" litany by transferring the letter to the end of the word (from "A is for Zorba" to "Z is for Abruz"); a fourth recounts an April 1st newspaper column advocating the respelling of Dutch words using only 13 letters of the alphabet. One delightful chapter, "There is an 'Albatros' in 'Ferdinand Bolstraat'", explores that odd juxtapositions of words resulting from transaddition. The only American logologist cited is Willard Espy, but he is given an entire chapter. From time to time, *Word Ways* plans to translate excerpts from this interesting and varied work.